



Office of the Trustees of
*Washington's Headquarters
and Museum*
Newburgh, N.Y.



June 25, 1955

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Avenue, St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman,

What a real pleasure it was to have the opportunity of seeing you and Mrs. Newman during your all-too-brief visit to Newburgh, the Palatine, and Washington's Headquarters Museum. I do hope that your researches will make it necessary for you both to come here frequently.

Thank you for your letter of the 15th. A counterfeit halfpence would be a most interesting addition to the collections here, and we would greatly appreciate receiving it as your gift

Enclosed, with our compliments, is a photostatic copy of the Robert Erskine bill to Machin and Nicoll. There is what is apparently a companion bill, of Noble & Townsend to those gentlemen, printed on page 71 of Edward C. Boynton's History of West Point (N. Y., 1863). I believe it may also be found in Rittenber's Obstructions, but unfortunately we do not have in our small museum library a copy of that scarce Munsell publication.

The Erskine bill is printed in Charles Rufus Harte's "The River Obstructions of the Revolutionary War" (reprinted from the 62nd Annual Report of the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers, Inc., 1946), on page 27, with this caption: "Bill of Robert Erskine of Ringwood Furnace, for Iron Intended for the Fort Montgomery Boom, but Which, Delivered too Late for Use There, was Used in the West Point Boom." Mr. Harte's conclusion concerning it reads: "In the New York State Museum at Newburgh is an original bill from Robert Erskine, proprietor of the Ringwood furnace and iron works. . . . The fact would seem to be that it had been planned to have a boom in front of the Fort Montgomery chain, and that because of the large amount of iron required the order had been divided between Ringwood and Sterling, the Noble, Townsend works, but that in spite of this precaution the material did not arrive until it was too late for use as intended, and it was then employed for the West Point boom."

I shall be greatly interested in your calculations. I get so involved in x's, y's, and z's, when I try such a problem, that I cannot resolve them.

Yours most sincerely,

Dorothy C. Barck, Historic Site Supt.